

OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT

Approved For Release 2001/08/31 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100130074-3

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SOURCE REF:

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TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO
 WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS
 INVOLVED

ITEM NO: WH-98 DATE: 23 JUN 74

SUBJECT: QADHAFI TALKS WITH FEDAYEEN LEADERS

REF : TRIPOLI 665, 37 JUN, CONF; TRIPOLI 666, 20 JUN 74-
 CONF

LIBYAN PRESIDENT QADHAFI HELD TALKS IN TRIPOLI LAST WEEK WITH FATAH LEADER YASIR ARAFAT AND LATER MET WITH AHMED JABRIL, HEAD OF THE POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE-GENERAL COMMAND (PFLP-GC). BOTH FEDAYEEN LEADERS RECEIVE SUBSTANTIAL AID FROM QADHAFI AND RECOGNIZE HIS IMPORTANCE AS A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE. JABRIL, WHO REJECTS THE POLICY OF NEGOTIATING WITH ISRAEL, IS SEEKING ASSURANCES OF CONTINUED LIBYAN SUPPORT FOR ACROSS-BORDER RAIDS, WHILE ARAFAT WANTS THE LIBYANS TO MODERATE THEIR OPPOSITION FOR HIS EFFORTS TO LEAD A PALESTINIAN DELEGATION TO THE GENEVA PEACE TALKS.

1 JABRIL PROBABLY RECEIVED A MORE FAVORABLE HEARING. THE LIBYAN

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MEDIA HAVE BEEN ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE SHAMIR ATTACK, FOR WHICH JABRIL'S GROUP WAS RESPONSIBLE. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE AS YET THAT LIBYA HAS AGREED TO STEP UP ITS SUPPORT TO JABRIL, BUT HIS PRESENCE IN TRIPOLI JUST AFTER THE SHAMIR INCIDENT IS A STRONG INDICATION THAT QADHAFI BELIEVES THE PFLP-GC IS DESERVING OF INCREASED AID.

THE LIBYAN LEADER--WHO FREQUENTLY PURSUES SEEMINGLY CONTRADICTION POLICIES--MAY ALSO HAVE GIVEN ARAFAT SOME MEASURE OF SUPPORT. ALTHOUGH QADHAFI STRONGLY OPPOSES NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL, HIS MOST IMMEDIATE CONCERN IS TO REPAIR HIS DAMAGED RELATIONS WITH EGYPT AND TO REGAIN HIS FOOTING IN ARAB POLITICAL POLITICS. ARAFAT WHO HAS APPARENTLY OFFERED TO MEDIATE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TRIPOLI AND CAIRO, IS ONE OF A FEW MIDDLE EAST LEADERS WHO IS STILL WILLING TO TALK WITH QADHAFI.

IN A JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED AT THE END OF ARAFAT'S VISIT, QADHAFI INDIRECTLY PRAISED ARAFAT'S ROLE IN MAINTAINING PALESTINIAN UNITY AT THE RECENT MEETINGS IN CAIRO, AND IN SO DOING, HINTED THAT HE MIGHT SOFTEN HIS CRITICISM OF THE MODERATE CAP THAT ARAFAT REPRESENTS. QADHAFI'S SWING IN ARAFAT'S DIRECTION IS NOW LIKELY TO

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